

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Remote control of equipment located on an organisation's intranet can be achieved by using proxy and client secure access controllers which communicate using a peripheral control protocol (PCP) over a predefined port number. By allowing only outbound connections over the firewall protecting the intranet and using SSL/TLS authentication and encryption, a high level of security is maintained. A similar arrangement at a control station is used to permit monitoring of equipment at a remote site without allowing inbound connections over the firewall which protects the remote station.